

## Planning a Strategic National Program

The results of the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) set the stage for the National Diabetes Education Program. The DCCT message—good blood glucose control matters—needed to be communicated to people with diabetes and those responsible for their care. A series of planning meetings in 1996 and 1997 laid the groundwork for the program.

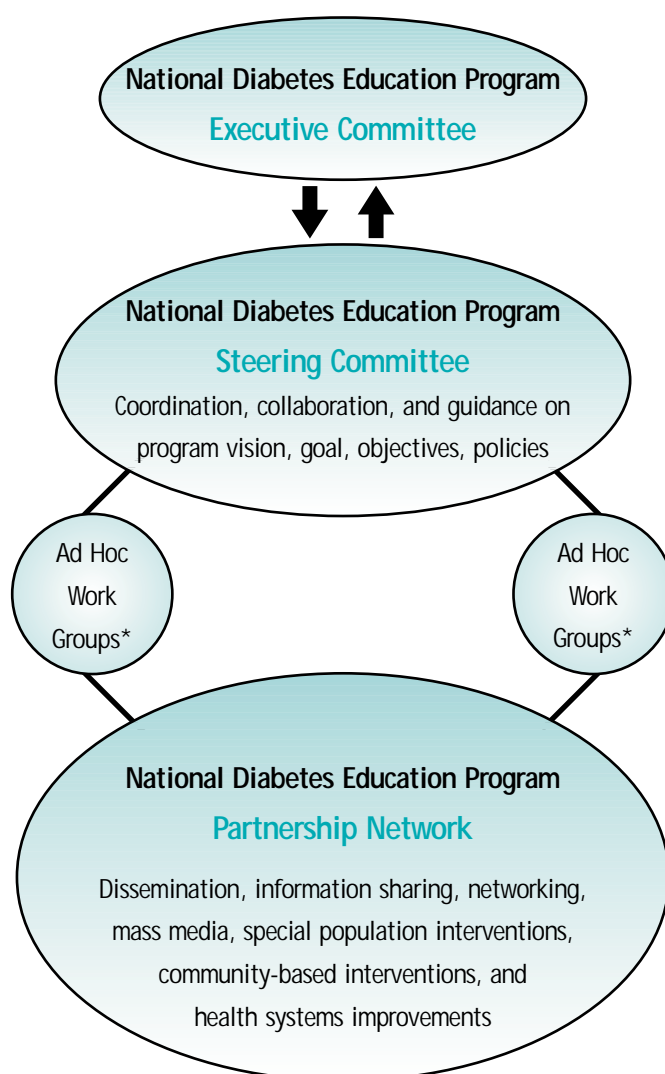
Diabetes is a multi-faceted national health problem that requires multiple strategies to solve it. Following the recommendations of an expert panel that had been convened to address translation of the DCCT findings into practice, planning the NDEP involved a wide variety of organizations to help develop program strategies. These organizations represented health care professionals, payers and purchasers of health care, public health officials, people with diabetes and their families, the general public, and many groups representing racial/ethnic minority populations. The planning meetings produced these key strategies for a national program:

- ▲ Develop and disseminate guiding principles that promote quality diabetes care;
- ▲ Create partnerships with other organizations concerned about diabetes;
- ▲ Develop and implement awareness and education activities with special emphasis on reaching the racial and ethnic populations disproportionately affected by diabetes;
- ▲ Identify, develop, and disseminate educational tools and resources for the program's diverse audiences; and
- ▲ Promote policies and activities to improve the quality of and access to diabetes care.

The National Diabetes Education Program involves representatives from national, state, and local organizations on its Executive and Steering Committees and on ad hoc work groups that help plan, design and imple-

ment program strategies. (See National Diabetes Education Program Organizational Chart below.)

### The National Diabetes Education Program Organizational Structure



*\* Ad Hoc work groups of the National Diabetes Education Program assist in the development, implementation, and/or evaluation of specific program components.*



National Diabetes Education Program Work Groups play an active role in developing, implementing, and/or evaluating specific program components. Work Group participants include Steering Committee members and representatives from the Partnership

Network who have the necessary expertise, experience, and organizational linkages to address the work group's task. A list of all the work group participants can be found at the end of this publication.

## National Diabetes Education Program Work Groups

The National Diabetes Education Program Work Groups and their missions are:

- ▲ **Guiding Principles for Diabetes Care:** To develop and disseminate guiding principles that represent the essential components of quality diabetes care and treatment.
- ▲ **Community Interventions, including the African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, and Asian American/Pacific Islander Work Groups:** To develop culturally and linguistically appropriate messages and materials and promote community-based interventions that raise awareness and support people with diabetes.
- ▲ **Health Care Providers:** To develop appropriate messages for health care providers that promote the importance of controlling diabetes, promote the use of the hemoglobin A1c test, and determine the best strategies to disseminate messages effectively.
- ▲ **Podiatry, Pharmacy, Optometry, and Dentistry:** To promote the principles of the National Diabetes Education Program by utilizing podiatry, pharmacy, optometry, and dentistry organizations and providers to increase awareness of and access to quality care for persons with diabetes.
- ▲ **Team Approach to Care:** To identify benefits and barriers of an integrated approach to care and education for all people with diabetes and outline strategies to facilitate its utilization in a variety of settings.
- ▲ **Diabetes in Children and Adolescents:** To address awareness and education issues related to children with diabetes, including the growing prevalence of type 2 diabetes in youth.
- ▲ **Business and Managed Care:** To increase awareness of the clinical and economic benefits of quality diabetes care, promote prevention through work-site interventions and community involvement, and increase the utilization of prevention practices.
- ▲ **Medicare Benefits:** To provide input on developing Medicare regulations on diabetes and, in coordination with the Health Care Financing Administration, to promote awareness of the new diabetes benefits to Medicare beneficiaries, health care providers, and other stakeholders.
- ▲ **Evaluation:** To develop a practical plan for assessing the effectiveness and reach of NDEP and to provide guidance on evaluating the minority component of the program.